



Parks and Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting
Minutes, May 16, 2016; 4:30 PM
Council Chambers

ITEM 1

CALL TO ORDER: 4:31 PM – The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeff Dobbs. Committee members present were Greg Veilleux, Eric Ankrom and John Kelly. Others in attendance were Andrew Dahl (Director of Bar Harbor Pride Festival) and associate Michael (?), and Andrew Shea and Kyle McKim of the Acadian Little League.

ITEM 2

A. Excused Absence(s): None.

ITEM 3

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Ankrom moved, with second by Mr. Veilleux, to amend the Agenda and to address Item IV. B. before Item IV.A; motion to approve the Agenda as amended passed (3-0).

ITEM 4

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of April 11, 2016. Mr. Veilleux moved, with second by Mr. Ankrom, to approve the Minutes; motion passed (3-0).

[For clarity to these Minutes, a voting Committee member arrived at this point in the meeting.]

ITEM 5

REGULAR BUSINESS

B. Acadian Little League (ALL): Andrew Shea and Kyle McKim Presentation of Athletic Field 2015 Project Recap and 2016 Project List.

Mr. Shea introduced ALL Executive Director McKim, who provides continuity to the program. A recap of banner revenue received in 2015 and projects completed were reviewed. Since the ballfields are in good shape, the 2016 project list is smaller than in the past and addresses maintenance and as-needed items. The banner revenue has also provided for ALL contribution to repairs to ball field #4, which is not an ALL field of use. Mr. Shea thanked the Committee and the Public Works crew for their support. He said the work crew goes out of its way and is quick to respond. Chair Dobbs remarked that ALL makes the Committee and the Athletic Field look good.

Improvements for future consideration were discussed:

- Chair Dobbs suggested the Committee should request Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding in FY18 for comfort station upgrades. Mr. Shea recommended a combined snack shack and upgraded comfort station. It was noted that the Bar Harbor (MDI) Rotary uses it for the annual Seafood Festival. Mr. Veilleux inquired if increasing the snack shack would increase revenue. Mr. Shea responded that it would not, but that the shack is falling apart and has no running water. Mr. Ankrom said that the MDI YMCA uses the shack in the fall for storage.

- Mr. Shea proposed that a playground be installed on the same side of Park Street as the Athletic Field. He has observed young siblings / friends of ball players attempting to cross Park Street to and from the Park Street Playground to the ballfields. He considers there would be room for a playground between fields #1 and #2 and tucked back along the Ledge lawn Avenue side of the area.

Mr. Shea stressed that ALL can get discounted prices from local construction contractors, as opposed to build-out projects. He described instances where contractors have helped in-kind at significant savings. The current arrangement proves that it all works well together and supply purchases are shared.

A. Minor Special Event – Park Use Permit Application. Request from Bar Harbor Pride to Hold Yoga in the Park at Grant Park from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM on Saturday, June 11, 2016.

Mr. Dahl and his associate represented the applicant in support of the application. The application fee and insurance liability certificate have been received. The event itself will last for one hour, at no cost to participants, has no physical set-up (only yoga mats used) with no amplification, offers open level of yoga ability, and there will be no puncturing of the grounds. The applicant is prepared to rent public portable toilets, if needed. It is anticipated that 25 people will participate. There are other small events hosted by private organizations; the goal is for a few small successes. Certified yoga instructors will guide the classes. Mr. Veilleux remarked that yoga sessions are held at the Village Green, and he has observed that the activity does not get out of hand.

Chair Dobbs reviewed the application using the Findings of Fact Sheet. Mr. Ankrom moved, with second by Mr. Veilleux, to approve the application; motion passed (4-0).

C. Grant Park Improvements: Project Update.

Public Works Director Chip Reeves submitted the project update via email, dated May 16, 2016, along with Committee project discussion meeting notes for review. The project will be put out to bid, as advised by Town Manager Cornell Knight. Mr. Reeves requested Committee clarification on five items. Committee response follows:

1. Street lighting on Albert Meadow (opposed by neighborhood property owners) - It was reiterated that street lighting is under the Parking and Traffic Committee purview.
2. Pedestrian lights at amphitheater seating area – Committee does not want this included in the project.

3. Hiding places created by plantings of Rosa Rugosa (plantings will be kept trimmed down) – Committee offered no alternate planting.

4. Tree plantings to conceal different (private) fencing around the Park – Committee does not want to add trees to hide the fencing. The fencing would be addressed at another time as a separate issue. Mr. Kelly said he would rather see improvement to the look of the fencing rather than adding trees.

5. Amphitheater – recommended to include the carefully considered element. No Committee change on this item.

Mr. Kelly moved, with second by Mr. Veilleux, to support the five points, except to not include pedestrian lighting under item #2, and to not add trees at fencing under item #4; motion passed (4-0).

D. Other Discussion.

- Acadia Community Theater / Barn Arts Collective inquiry regarding a major event in July / August: Chair Dobbs advised the Mark Puglisi and Andrew Simon that the event could not occur this year. The Park Use Ordinance will be sent to them, and they will be invited to the next Committee meeting to discuss their interests.
- Committee member Veilleux will not be available for a Committee meeting of June 20.

**ITEM 6
NEXT MEETING DATE
June 6, 2016**

**ITEM 7
ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Suzanne Banis
Recording Secretary